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judgeships his influence was effective. He secured a strong list of judges, but in so doing he incurred the hostility of many a senator who had hoped to pay political debts by the gift of one of these nominations. The opportunity for revenge was at hand, for when Grant appointed Judge Hoar for a position upon the Supreme Bench much angry opposition was encountered; for five months the nomination was before the Senate, and was then rejected. "What could you expect for a man who had snubbed seventy senators?" was the comment of one of that body.

Judge Hoar first learned of his selection for Cabinet office from the bulletin-boards of Boston newspapers. Almost equally abrupt was the intimation that his resignation was desired, when Grant saw an opportunity to win favor at the South by appointing an Attorney-General from that section. Judge Hoar bore this astounding treatment "with perfect serenity", not allowing it to chill his personal regard for the President. Only a few months later, Grant again sought his service as a member of the Joint High Commission which adjusted the long-pending controversy with Great Britain by the treaty of Washington.

It is fitting that the biography of this jurist and loyal son of Concord should have been prepared as the joint product of the leader of the Massachusetts bar and the son of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Judge Hoar's lifelong friend. Sympathetic insight and the command of personal memories and documents have enabled them to present a striking characterization of the man. Yet this biography obviously suffers from a lack of unified interest and responsibility. Its structure is very loose. Repetitions in almost identical phrase occur even on consecutive pages. Heavy dependence has been placed upon Senator Hoar's autobiography. The headings of the longest chapters, *The Public Spirited Citizen* and *Personal Reminiscences*, permit a loose stringing of episodes, many of great interest, but some of trifling importance. Nevertheless, in these pages Judge Hoar stands forth as a virile personality, a nineteenth-century Puritan, as shrewd as he was learned, devotedly loyal and largely serviceable to his native town and to his college, to his commonwealth, and to his country.

GEORGE H. HAYNES.

J. L. M. Curry: a Biography. By EDWIN ANDERSON ALDERMAN and ARMISTEAD CHURCHILL GORDON. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1911. Pp. xvii, 468.)

JABEZ LAMAR MONROE CURRY was born in Georgia in 1825, he studied law at Harvard, "went off" to the Mexican War in 1846, entered the Alabama legislature in 1847, became a member of Congress in 1857, and was a leader of national reputation in 1860, when he was only thirty-five years old. He was next a member of the Confederate Congress, a colonel in the Confederate army, a minister in the Baptist Church, a college professor in Richmond, Virginia, and a popular lecturer on educational topics. From 1881 till his death in 1903 he was agent of the

Peabody Trust and the foremost educational leader and evangelist in the South. But he was too good a Southerner to resist the invitation of President Cleveland to represent the United States at the Court of Spain where he "assisted" at the birth of the present monarch.

This was an eventful life and worthy to be recorded. He kept a diary during most of his life, made copies of his important letters, and filed clippings and other data bearing on his career or the events in which he had a hand. This collection has been used by the authors with care and good sense; their references and quotations whet the appetite for a fuller acquaintance with this original material. It ought certainly to be preserved.

In politics Curry was of the Calhoun school, a strict constructionist of the Federal Constitution, and he died loyal to this idea, though his attitude toward the Blair bill must have given his conscience some troublesome scruples. On slavery he was an extremist, believing absolutely in the righteousness and the advisability of admitting Kansas under the Lecompton Constitution—he thought it to be the duty of Congress to protect slavery in a territory in spite of the "unfriendly legislation" of which Douglas spoke in the debates with Lincoln. And when the South seceded he rejoiced.

But the authors of this book take pains many times to argue that Curry did not fight for slavery, but simply for "constitutional freedom" and the "sovereignty of the individual state" (p. 157). This is so frequently brought into the narrative that the reader is led to suspect the accuracy and doubt the force of the claim.

Curry's life work, that of an educational evangelist for the South, receives, as is quite proper, large attention. Curry's abilities were decidedly of the emotional and oratorical character; he could preach most effectively, and when he pleaded the cause of Southern education, of negro education, even the southern legislatures were impelled to action, and the press gave him big head-lines. It was this gift of stirring the feelings of men which moved the Peabody board to employ him, and which enabled him to set in motion the reforms which have so radically revolutionized Southern thought and habit on the subject of popular education. President Alderman, himself, is an intellectual child of Curry as well as a successful leader in the same cause; Charles D. McIver of North Carolina was another of those firebrands of reform that Curry set in motion.

If there is a weakness in this modest biography it is just in this matter of the continuation of Curry's work; but this would have involved too much that would have been personal and invidious which may well be left to the historian of the "New South". Such an historian can not fail in his final reckoning not only to give this gifted Alabamian a high place among statesmen, but also to devote much space to the cause which he made popular and which is being carried forward all over the South by his successors.